

TRIBUTE TO MARC HAKEN

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 30, 1995*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man whose contributions to his community speak volumes for the ability of one human being to have a positive impact on the lives of others. In a time when individuals seem to be focusing increasingly on their own welfare, Marc Haken, who already has made significant contributions to the Queens community as a teacher and community activist, has discovered yet another way to have a profound impact on his fellow New Yorkers.

For the last 3 years, Marc has made at least 1 monthly donation to the Queens Library Foundation's Buy-a-Book program to help expand the library's collection. You see, Marc learned at a young age that the ability and desire to read opens the door to a world of ideas and opportunities. The 37 books that Marc has donated to this point, each dedicated to a deserving individual, will enrich the lives of Queens residents for years to come, leaving behind a legacy of commitment to community in which we can all share. I hope it serves as an example to others.

Mr. Speaker, I'm inserting into the RECORD a January 8, 1995, article published in the Queens Library newsletter which elaborates on the meaningful contributions made by this fine citizen:

COMMUNITY LEADER CHAMPIONS BUY-A-BOOK CAMPAIGN

Contributing to the Queens Library Foundation's Buy-a-Book program has become something of an obsession for Marc Haken. Since first learning about the opportunity to put new books into the Library's collection through Buy-a-Book, Mr. Haken, a teacher, community activist and lifelong Queens resident, has been the program's most enthusiastic supporter. Each month for the past two years, he has faithfully contributed at least one \$25 donation to purchase a book. In all, his donations have enabled the Library to acquire 37 new books—books that Queens Library would otherwise have been unable to offer.

While some might consider his generosity unusual or excessive, Mr. Haken knows well the great value of books and libraries, and believes that contributing to Buy-a-Book is the last he can do to repay the Library which helped make him a success. As a junior high school teacher, vice chair of Community Board 8, president of a housing association, political lobbyist and member of countless community organizations, Mr. Haken leads a full and contented life. However, he realizes that if Queens Library's limitless resources had not been available to him as a child, his life may have taken a much different course.

"It's frightening to think back on it today, but I almost slipped through elementary school without learning to read," Mr. Haken said. "Thankfully, my sixth grade teacher recognized the problem and insisted that I begin learning to read and taking my education seriously." That was just the push Mr. Haken needed. Each day following school, he walked directly to Queens Library's Central Library, then located on Parsons Boulevard, and spent all afternoon devouring books, determine to compensate for lost time.

"I wasn't even concerned with subject matter at the time, I only wanted to improve my reading skills," Mr. Haken related. "I'd simply pick a shelf in the library and return every day until I'd read every book on that shelf. Somewhere in the process, I began appreciating all the wonders of reading. I realized my mind was opening and new worlds were presenting themselves."

Mr. Haken believes that the voracious appetite he developed for reading led directly to his desire to teach, and his commitment to community service. He considers himself fortunate to have built a rich and satisfying life, and feels that he can best express his gratitude by providing opportunities for others, particularly young people.

The Buy-a-Book program, he said, offers a simple but ideal way for him to have a meaningful impact in the community. "I'm not a wealthy guy financially. I don't have the means to donate thousands of dollars. The beauty of this program is that for \$25, I can give a gift that will last for years and enrich the minds of dozens, maybe hundreds of people. Surely I can find \$25 for that."

Mr. Haken also enjoys the fact that Buy-a-Book contributors are invited to dedicate each donated book, with an inscription inside the bookcover, to a person of their choice. "I've found that people are absolutely thrilled to be recognized in this way. They consider it a wonderful gesture," he said. "One young man to whom I dedicated a book continually visits the Library just to see the book and ensure that it's in good condition."

For the first 20 or so books, deciding who to honor was simple: his sister Clair, colleagues, neighbors, and the memory of his parents and other relatives who have passed away. Having donated 37 books at this point, he has been forced to become more inventive in conceiving dedications. "For my last book," he laughed, "I simply drew a blank, so I figured why not pay tribute to myself."

That, certainly, was an indulgence he richly deserved.

To become a Buy-a-Book donor, send a check payable to Queens Library Foundation to: Queens Library Foundation, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica, NY, 11432. Donors may indicate the name of the person to whom they wish to dedicate the book and the branch library or Central Library division where they would like the book to be shelved. For more information, call the Queens Library Foundation at (718) 990-0849.

IN HONOR OF REV. ARNOLD  
MCKINNEY

**HON. JACK KINGSTON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 30, 1995*

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Rev. Arnold McKinney. Reverend McKinney is the pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Waycross, GA. He has made many contributions not only in his capacity as a Baptist minister, but also as a concerned citizen. Reverend McKinney is a teacher, husband, and father, and his accomplishments are being honored this Friday by the members of his church and community.

Reverend McKinney received the Benjamin E. Mays Fellowship to attend theological training at the Morehouse School of Religion/Interdenominational Theological Center. Before at-

tending seminary, he served for several years as associate dean of students at Middlebury College where he received his undergraduate degree.

Reverend McKinney's commitment goes beyond Waycross, GA. He is an active participant across the entire State, and serves on a variety of boards and organizations that are aimed at improving the lives of children and families. Currently, he serves as vice president of the General Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc., the State's largest organization of African-Americans who are active in ministerial training, community service, christian education, and home and foreign missions. He also serves on the boards of the Maternal and Child Health Institute, Ware County Health Coalition, and the Southern Governor's Ecumenical Council on Infant Mortality. He has served on the Governor's Special Council on Family Planning, the Governor's Commission on Children and Youth, the Grady Hospital Board of Visitors, and the Georgia Welfare Reform Taskforce.

Reverend McKinney frequently lectures on Christian education and holds workshops on church organization and leadership. He is a great leader, husband, and father, and I am proud to have such a devoted individual living in the First Congressional District of Georgia.

FEDERAL POLICIES ON CITIES  
AND STATES WITH RESPECT TO  
THE PROBLEM OF POVERTY

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 30, 1995*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, fixing a broken welfare system is one of the most significant challenges this Congress will face. As a newly-elected Member of Congress, I come to Washington with a background in city government. As a former councilmember and former vice-chair of the National League of Cities Task Force on Federal Policy and Family Policy, I am intimately familiar with effects that Federal policies have on cities and States as they grapple with the problem of poverty.

I am deeply concerned that sweeping budget and block grant proposals before the new Congress will have devastating long-term consequences for children and families as well as for the Nation's cities. Mr. Speaker, as you well know, welfare reform is fundamentally a children's issue as two-thirds of recipients are children—70 percent in Texas. In my district alone, 51,957 children are living in poverty with 35 percent of these children being under 18 years of age. In fact, of all 435 congressional districts, mine ranks 30th for the number of poor children.

Proposals which would convert welfare [AFDC], food stamps, SSI disability, or other survival programs for children and families into block grants to States would strip these programs of their entitlement status and thereby strip State and local governments of their ability to respond to increasing needs. In entitlement programs, more Federal money flows into cities through AFDC, food stamps, and SSI disability programs. This automatic influx